

Robert Ball and Martha Maria Elsmore Ball

1850-1950 Centennial Biography

Robert Ball, son of William and Caroline Simmons Ball, was born in Lehi, October 24, 1876. Educated in the Lehi schools, he attended Brigham Young University one year. He married Martha Maria Elsmore, daughter of Nephi and Alice Fryer Elsmore of American Fork, September 2, 1896. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple.

The following year they moved to Eureka where Mr. Ball was a tool-sharpener. In 1901 they moved to Mammoth. The following year their son Robert, age 20 months became ill, and Mr. Ball walked a mile to summon the Bishop to administer to him. Fearing that he could not get there in time, the Bishop offered a prayer at his home. The child rallied immediately, but died shortly afterward. The father made a vow to prepare to administer to his family and become an ardent Church worker. He was president of the Elders' Quorum and Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association teacher at Mammoth, while his wife was counselor in the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association.

Returning to Lehi in 1904, he worked at the sugar factory as mechanic, later becoming head chemist. They built a home on the corner of second East and Main Street where his wife still resides.

He was Alpine Stake Sunday School board member, Elders' quorum instructor, junior president of the 68th Quorum of Seventy, and ward teacher. He was assistant chief of the fire department and a member of the Lehi Commercial Club.

He was prepared to leave for the Northern States Mission on June 30, 1914; but a sudden illness ended his life June 25, 1914, at the age of 37. He died leaving his wife and children: Cleo (Mrs. Clarence Jones), Helen (Mrs. LeRoy

Crooksson), and Wilburn. When Roberta (Mrs. Boyd J. Larsen) was born three months later, Cleo quit school to care for her mother.

His funeral was held in the tabernacle and the business houses closed in respect to his memory.

Mrs. Ball was born at Salt Lake City, January 2, 1876 and lived at Pelican Point, Alpine, and American Fork where she was secretary of the Fourth Ward Primary. She attended the public school there.

She was active in the First Ward Primary, as missionary in 1910, aide, counselor, and president from 1911 until the wards were divided.

She has been employed seasonally at the Lehi Sugar Factory for 28 years making Kelly press bags for the company's other plants. With the help of her children and neighbors, Mrs. Christine Bateman and Mrs. Dot Racker, she was able to care for her family and aged mother. She was Lehi City Treasurer from 1922 to 1932.

In 1924 she was counselor in the Fifth Ward Primary, until appointed president in 1927. She was later released to care for her mother. She was Relief Society secretary and teacher, and first counselor in 1940.

In 1936 she was president of the missionary association while her son was in the Texas mission. She is now treasurer of Camp Snow Spring of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, and assisted earlier with the D.U.P. relic drive.

She has ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.